HOUSING FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY FIDELITY ASSESSMENT

Housing First
Cross-country
Fidelity assessment

Housing First International Network

What is it?

- A cross-country research project for mutual learning on Housing First implementation

- It assesses the fidelity of a HF program to the core principles of the original HF model (Pathways to Housing)

- It analyses the different adaptations of the HF model to the different contexts

Context of the project

- **Housing First is a ground-breaking model**
  - Shakes mindsets
  - Questions existing intervention models
  - That always scares and generates reluctances
- **Development of HF at international level**
  - Early introduction stage in many countries
  - Different countries = different policy, social & health services contexts
  - Many different organizations will implement HF programs
- **HF is born as an evidence based practice**
  - Evaluation shows programs deliver results on expected outcomes
  - We need to know what are we evaluating
- **International community around HF**
  - Shared knowledge and mutual learning

Objectives

- **For the programs:**

  - **Program Development & Improvement:**

    How can we guide programs to begin implementing the model?

  - **Targeted Technical Assistance:**

    What specific areas does a program need assistance with?

  - **Research:**

    How are program components linked to outcomes?

- **For the HF international community**

  - Mutual learning on HF implementation

  - To understand the adaptation of the HF model to the different contexts

  - To promote an evidence-based culture

Participating programs

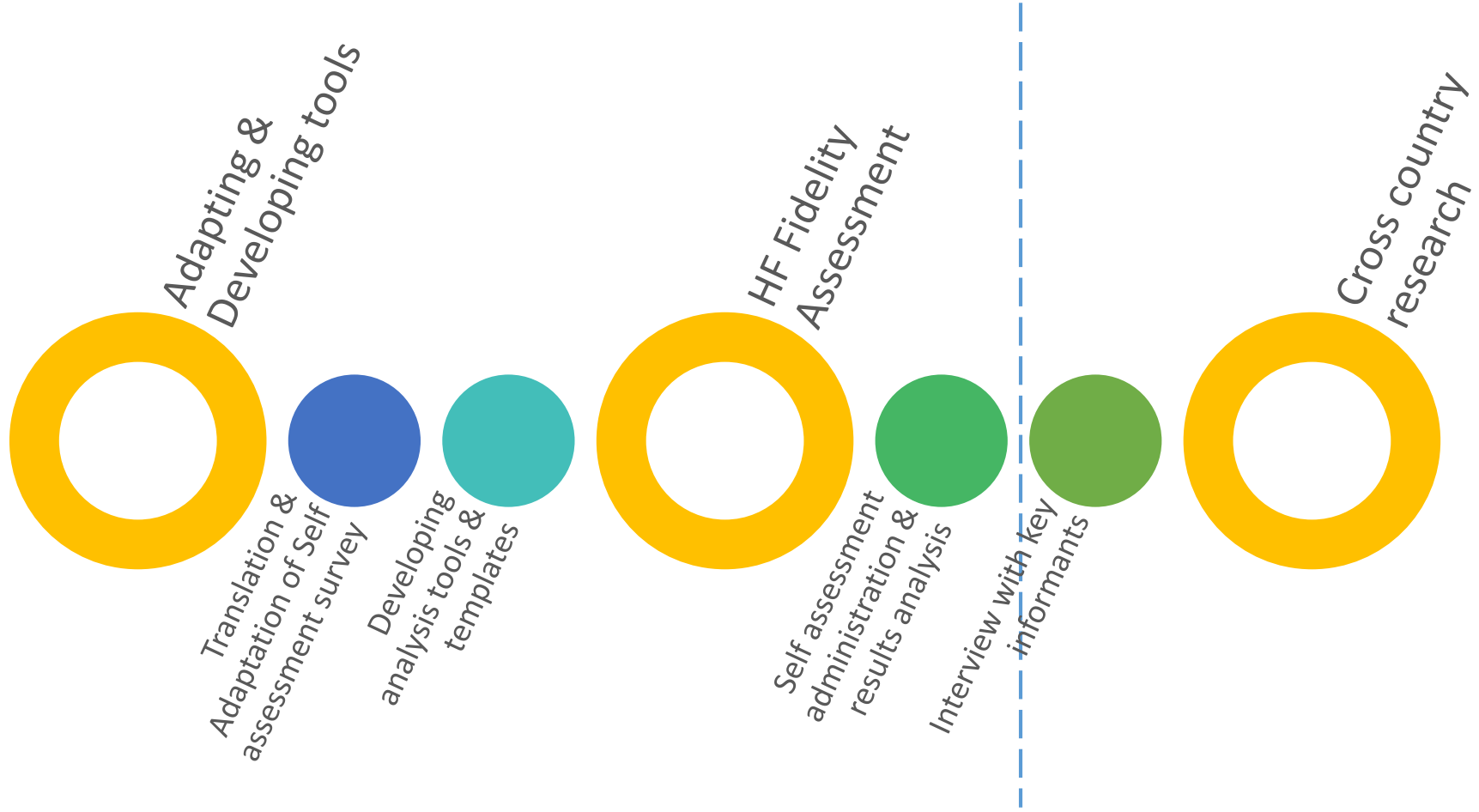| COUNTRY	PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION
Canada	At home/Chez soi (Oasis)	University of Ottawa
Belgium	Housing First Belgium	HF Belgium
France	Un chez soi d'abord	DIHAL
Ireland	HF Dublin	University of Limerick
Italy	HF Italia	University of Padova
Portugal	Casas Primeiro	AEIPS
Luxembourg	HF CNDS - Luxemburg	CNDS
Spain	Hábitat	RAIS Fundación
Spain	Arrels	Arrels Fundaciò
USA	Pathways Washington	Pathways to Housing
The Netherlands	HF Netherlands	Impuls

Previous experiences

Following Pathways model (from an external assessment to self-assessment tools)

- Pathways to Housing

- At home / Chez soi

- Dublin HF demonstration

- RAIS Fundacion pilot

Other fidelity measures are being developed in some countries / programs

Methodology

Adapting & Developing tools

Translation & Adaptation of Self assessment survey

Developing analysis tools & templates

HF Fidelity Assessment

Self assessment administration & results analysis

Interview with key informants

Cross country research

HF Self-assessment survey* (QUANT)

38-item survey with scoring

Methodology
1) **Administered to program staff individually**
2) **Conducted consensus meeting**

Structure of the survey
- Housing choice and structure
- Separation of housing and services
- Service philosophy
- Service array
- Program structure

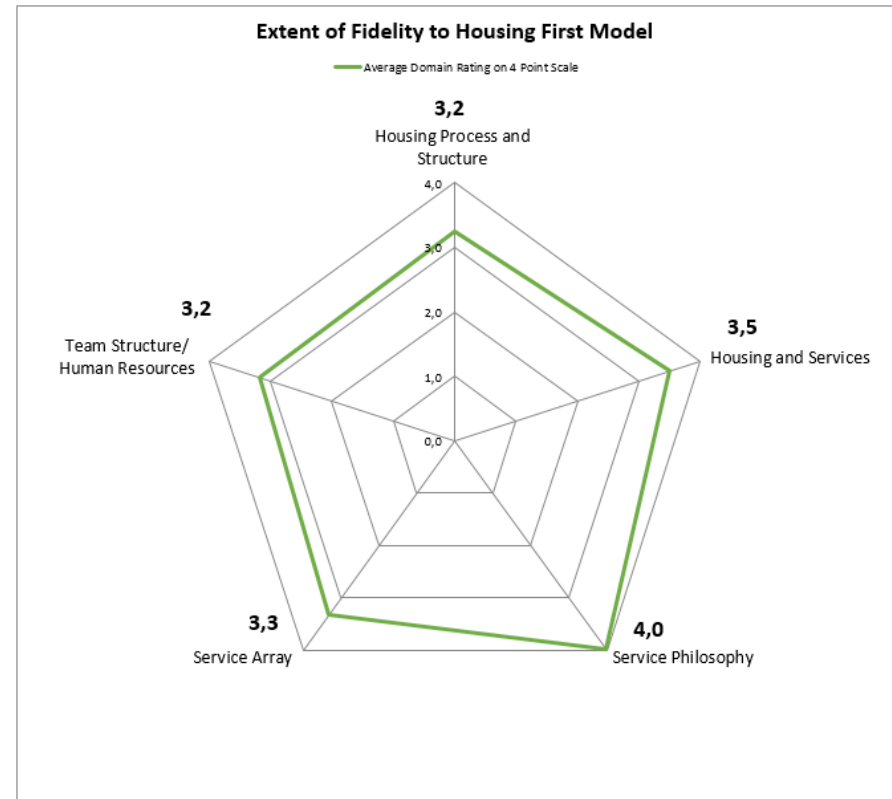*Gilmer, T., Stefancic, A., Sklar, M., & Tsemberis, S. (2013).

HF Self-assessment survey (QUANT)

Example of item

3. Does the program assist participants with furniture?

Program does not assist participants with obtaining furniture	Program assists participants to find furniture in the community (e.g., donations)	Program assists participants by purchasing furniture
1	2	4

Domains	It	Site 1	POTENTIAL RANGE	Domain Score
Housing process and structure	1	4	7-28	23
	2	4		
	3	3		
	4	1		
	5	2		
	6	1		
	7	4		
	8	4		
Housing and services	9	2	7-29	17
	10	2		
	11a	2		
	11b	3		
	12	4		
	13	4		
Service philosophy	14	4	7-41	32
	15	3		
	16	3		
	17	4		
	18	6		
	19	5		
	8	7		
Service array	21	4	9-46	38
	8	8		
	8	5		
	8	3		
	8	3		
	8	2		
	8	5		
	8	3		
	29a	5		
Team structure/human resources	31	6	7-30	28
	8	4		
	34b	2		
	8	4		
	8	6		
	8	6		
TOTAL SCORE		**138**	**37-174**	**138**

Extent of Fidelity to Housing First Model

— Average Domain Rating on 4 Point Scale

3,2 Housing Process and Structure

3,5 Housing and Services

4,0 Service Philosophy

3,3 Service Array

3,2 Team Structure/ Human Resources

Interview with key informants (QUAL)

Conducted individually or in a group with program managers and service providers

Parts of the interview:

1) Items with low scoring
- Which are the barriers?
- Which ways to move forward?

2) Drivers, obstacles, challenges
- Go through other identified issues relevant to the program success or needed from improvement

Results & Outcomes

The research project produces:

- Individual program results
- Comparative analysis report
- Public presentations
- Publications, articles

A Special Issue of the European Journal on Homelessness will present results of the research in 2018

Project coordination:

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